

From: Jeff Watkins
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 1:45pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Wednesday, 23 January, 2002

Renata B. Hesse
Antitrust Division
U.S. Department of Justice
601 D Street NW
Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Ms. Hesse:

I would like to add my voice to those crying out against the proposed settlement between the Department of Justice and Microsoft. I have found no provisions in the settlement that would effectively curb Microsoft's rapacious appetite and anticompetitive behaviour. My experience with Microsoft has led me to believe they will stop at nothing to own every market in which they compete: even at the expense of their customers and partners. A great example is their recent attempt to ask the court to grant them a monopoly of the education market.

As a veteran of the software industry with more than a decade (yes, in the software industry that does qualify one for veteran status) of experience building software for numerous platforms including Microsoft Windows, I have never encountered a company with such a callous disregard for right and wrong as Microsoft. I have experienced their deceitful nature while working for a "partner" organisation (Attachmate) and during a brief contract within their own Internal Tools Group. In recent years I have been party to discussions regarding new products or services that were abandoned for fear Microsoft would disapprove and try to put the company out of business. Very few of us have the capital necessary to withstand an attack by Microsoft as have Apple, Sun and Netscape. This culture of fear can not be good for any environment; nor is it good for the consumer for it stifles innovation like nothing else can.

Please consider a remedy with actual teeth that serves the consumer rather than Microsoft. Do not forget the way Microsoft mocked the original consent decree which started this whole process. What could possibly make one believe they would not mock the court again?

Respectfully,

Jeff Watkins
1522 Post Alley #209
Seattle, WA 98101

206-619-0809